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SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: NOVEMBER 20, 2009

Summary: All TV channels reported an alleged U.S. drone attack in North Waziristan that killed 8 extremists on late Friday morning. "The Nation" published stories with photos that "another 'Blackwater den' comes to surface" in a posh locality of Islamabad, and that two "mysterious U.S. nationals" wandering in guise of journalists were arrested and later on released in Peshawar after the bomb blast on Thursday. Elements of this story were published also in Frontier Post, Nawai-i-Waqt and Daily Times. Newspapers also reported that National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights was informed that American nationals were purchasing land in suburbs of Islamabad calling it a "conspiracy to besiege the country's nuclear assets". Reports of Pakistan President Zardari's meeting with Secretary Clinton in Kabul received extensive coverage in media on Friday, with the President quoted as asking the U.S. to take Pakistan into confidence on its new Afghan policy. Prime Minister Gilani's remarks denying that President Obama's letter included the phrase 'do more,' as previously printed in the press were also prominently displayed. In its editorial, the daily "Dawn," noted that the "Israeli refusal to halt settlement activity has now assumed the shape of a brazen-faced defiance of President Obama's Middle East policy." End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: Eight Killed In Drone Attack In North Waziristan "Dawn" (11/20)

"Eight people were killed when a U.S. drone fired missiles into the Pakistani tribal area of North Waziristan on Friday, 'DawnNews' reported. The strike took place in Mir Ali village, some 16 kilometers northeast of Miramshah, the main town of the North Waziristan tribal district, a senior security official told AFP."

News Story: Drone Attack Kills 3 In North Waziristan Agency "The News" (11/20)

"Three people were killed and as many injured as a U.S. spy plane fired two missiles on a house in Shana Khawra area of North Waziristan Agency before dawn on Thursday, local sources said. Several houses were also damaged in the missile attack."

News Story: Another 'Blackwater Den' Comes To Surface "The Nation" (11/20)

"Another house reportedly belonging to notorious Blackwater (XE Worldwide) was exposed in posh sector F-8/3 of the Federal Capital. The residents of sector F-8, which has become a permanent source of fear and insecurity among the dwellers, informed 'The Nation' that they had informed police and other law enforcement agencies about

the suspicious activities of the inhabitants of the said house."

News Story: Mysterious U.S. Nationals "The Nation" (11/20)

"Two suspicious foreigners wandering in guise of journalists and having no required documents were arrested soon after the suicide attack at the Judicial Complex, Peshawar on Thursday. The foreigners, a man and a woman, were soon boarded on a vehicle bearing number UN 173 and were driven towards the U.S. Consulate. A police guard was also seen in alert position inside the vehicle. Earlier, police had also nabbed two foreigners who were wandering in guise of Spanish journalists after the Pashtakhara suicide blast. However, DSP Hayatabad Raheem Shah had got them freed. The DSP could not offer satisfactory answers to the enquiries of the officials of an investigation agency, after which a report had been sought against him."

News Story: Americans Buying Land Around Islamabad, NA Body Told "Daily Times" (11/20)

"The National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights was told on Thursday that American nationals were purchasing land in the suburbs of the capital, which could be a conspiracy to besiege the country's nuclear assets. MNA Javed Hashmi, who also heads the NA human rights body's sub-committee on American private security firm Black-Water's alleged presence in the country, said the U.S. was purchasing land in the city's suburbs, including Malpur, Sihala and the Simly Dam area."

News Story: Blackwater's Activities In Islamabad Go Unchecked "The Frontier Post" (11/20)

"The presence of suspicious foreigners, possibly operatives of Blackwater/XE Worldwide, in posh sectors of the federal capital has rung alarm bells among peaceful citizens as well as the security agencies after their doubtful activities were observed."

News Story: Blackwater Faces Inquiry, Fines For Arms Shipments "The Nation" (11/20)

"The international security company formerly called Blackwater Worldwide is facing large fines imposition for its involvement in the unlicensed arms shipments to Iraq, 'The New York Times' reported Thursday. Meanwhile, the newspaper said a key Congressional committee is asking for a separate investigation into allegations that the company bribed Iraqi officials. In talks likely to result in millions of dollars in penalties, the Times said the executives of the company, now known as Xe Services, are negotiating with government regulators over years of violations of export laws."

Opinion: Americans in Pakistan, an op-ed by Dr. Ijaz Ahsan in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (11/23)

"Please remember, dear reader, that the growing number of American soldiers and 'security contractors' (Blackwater or Xe Worldwide) in and around Islamabad is as much a threat to us as an equivalent number of Pakistani security men in and around Washington DC would be to the American citizens, especially if their equivalent of Kahuta was located in the suburbs of their capital. However, it seems that we are living in the Sleeping Beauty's castle, where everyone is blissfully napping. It all seems to boil down to them wanting our nukes. In my opinion, the Obama Administration probably feels that it is not easy for them to target the nukes physically. Therefore, they want to create instability so that they can defend their action of taking our nukes in their custody. And it is to make this more feasible that they want their men on the ground all over the place."

MISCELLANEOUS

News Story: U.S. Asked To Take Pakistan Into Confidence On Afghan Policy "The News" (11/20)

"President Asif Ali Zardari has asked the U.S. to take Pakistan on board regarding its new policy on Afghanistan, as it would also have an impact on Pakistan. He expressed these views while talking to U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton on Thursday. Host of issues came under discussion like Pak-U.S. relations, war against

terrorism, new U.S. policy relating to Afghanistan and other security matters. Both the leaders met on the occasion of the oath-taking ceremony of Hamid Karzai."

News Story: Karzai Starts Second Term With Pledge To Fight Graft "Dawn" (11/20)

"Afghan leader Hamid Karzai was sworn in as president on Thursday, pledging to fight graft and take control of his country's security before the end of his five-year term. Mr. Karzai, 51, called for reconciliation with enemies and proposed a 'Loya Jirga,' a traditional grand assembly, which under Afghanistan's constitution could take precedence over all government institutions, including the presidency itself."

News Story: Hillary Vows U.S. Help To Build Afghan Military "The Nation" (11/20)

"U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Thursday that the United States will help Afghanistan prepare its military and police to take over the security of the war-ravaged country. Responding to a pledge by Afghan President Hamid Karzai that the country will take over responsibility for security in five years, she said the United States would assist it to do so as quickly as possible."

News Story: Gilani To Quit If Wife Proved NRO Beneficiary; Denies Obama's Letter Included 'Do More' Phrase "The News" (11/20)

"In what could be described as a clear message to the beneficiaries of the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) to resign from their posts, Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Thursday said he would resign if it was proved that his spouse was a beneficiary of the controversial ordinance.... Replying to a question during the press talk, after the function of 'Green Journalist Award' at the Prime Minister Secretariat in Islamabad on Thursday, the Prime Minister reaffirmed the government's resolve to completely root out the menace of extremism and terrorism. 'Pakistan is not fighting anyone's but its own war for peace and security,' he added. Answering a question regarding U.S. President Obama's letter to President Asif Ali Zardari, in which it was reported to do more in the war on terrorism, the Prime Minister said it is for America now to do more in overcoming the menace of terrorism. 'There is nothing like 'Do More' mentioned in the letter,' he added."

News Story: Ties With India Can Change History: U.S. "Dawn" (11/20)

"The relationship between the United States and India can change the course of human events in the 21st century, says the U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, William Burns. In a policy speech at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Mr. Burns also addressed the issue of India-Pakistan relations, expressing support to the bilateral peace process and the dialogue between the neighbors."

News Story: AI Urges Obama To Discuss Kashmir With Singh "Dawn" (11/20)

"Amnesty International urged U.S. President Barack Obama on Thursday to raise the issue of mass human rights violations in Kashmir when he meets Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the White House next week. 'The Indian side of Kashmir is another area where Indian security forces commit mass human rights abuses with impunity, said an Amnesty letter sent to the U.S. leader."

News Story: India Failed To Respond Positively On Peace Talks "The News" (11/20)

"Reiterating his strong stance that India is not serious in the process of dialogue with Pakistan, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Thursday underlined that India had not given Pakistan a positive response in its proposal for the restoration of dialogue. He expressed these views in an informal chat with his Indian counterpart S.M. Krishna in Kabul."

News Story: Mehdi Set To Become GB's First CM "Dawn" (11/20)

"Syed Mehdi Shah, chief of the Gilgit-Baltistan chapter of the

Pakistan People's Party (PPP), is set to become the first chief minister of the region after his nomination as the party's parliamentary leader in the Legislative Assembly here on Thursday."

Editorial: Obama's Plan For Afghan Exit, an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (11/20)

"President Obama has given an indication that his long awaited new Afghan strategy would include an exit strategy to avoid a multiyear occupation that won't serve the interests of the United States.... The exit strategy would exacerbate fears in the region including Pakistan which suffered the most and still suffering as the Americans left Afghanistan after Soviet withdrawal while it was in turmoil and there was no Government. It is therefore important that while there should be an exit strategy on fast track, the concerns of Pakistan must also be kept in view."

Editorial: Israeli Defiance, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (11/20)

"Israel's refusal to halt settlement activity has now assumed the shape of a brazen-faced defiance of President Barack Obama's Middle East policy.... However, Israel seems to have treated Mr. Obama's concerns with a degree of nonchalance that is stupefying.... Justifying his government's illegal action in building new houses in Jerusalem's Gilo district, hard-line Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said Gilo was 'an integral part of Israel, an integral part of Jerusalem.'... In their last meeting at Abu Dhabi, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told President Mahmoud Abbas to accept new housing projects.... One can hardly hope for peace if Washington continues to kowtow to Israel."

Editorial: Fighting A Common Enemy, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (11/20)

"President Zardari and his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai held wide-ranging talks with the focus on enhancing bilateral cooperation and joint efforts to eradicate terrorism.... Terrorism and extremism is a common threat faced by both neighbors and requires a common response. An increase in militancy not only spells danger for Afghanistan, but the entire region, and only serious and sincere cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan could bring peace and stability to the region.... It goes without saying that a peaceful Afghanistan is in the interest of Pakistan and the region as well. It is hoped that talks between the presidents of two countries would result in better understanding to strengthen the fight against terrorism."

Editorial: India's Meddling, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (11/20)

"For some time now the government has publicly been conceding that India has been meddling in Balochistan by aiding the militants and providing weapons and succor to them both in Pakistan and outside. In addition, Indian arms have been recovered from South Waziristan also, linking India to the militancy there as well.... However, at the end of the day foreign powers are able to interfere in our sensitive areas because we provide them that space. The best way to deny space to foreign meddling and to foreign powers trying to start and sustain low intensity operations is to assert the writ of the state effectively."

Editorial: U.S-China Joint Statement And Indian Hue And Cry, in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25, 000) (11/20)

"Indian Foreign Minister S.M. Krishna has said that India neither wants any third-party mediation in resolving Indo-Pak disputes nor would it accept any such mediation.... India is the only country in the region that has border disputes and other issues with all its neighbors. India has also had armed conflicts with its neighbors. Hence, India cannot be expected to ensure the protection of the states in the region. This region needs durable peace now more than ever. Time will not stand still for India if it does not realize the

need for this improvement in relations."

TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: Terrorists Strike Peshawar Twice "Dawn" (11/20)

"Peshawar went through yet another day of bloodbath on Thursday when two strikes, within a space of 14 hours, left 22 people dead. The first target was the city's judicial complex, where a suicide bomber blew himself up outside a court building early in the morning, and the other came late in the night when a roadside bomb destroyed a police van. The first attack claimed the better part of the casualties - 20 dead and 50 injured. Three policemen were among the dead."

News Story: U.S. Condemns Terrorist Attack In Peshawar "Pakistan" (11/20)

"The U.S. Embassy in Pakistan strongly condemned the suicide bomb blast outside the Judicial Complex in Peshawar that killed 19 people and injured many innocent Pakistanis. The Embassy extended its sympathy to the victims of the attack and the families and friends of those who lost their lives in the cruel attack."

News Story: Pakistani Taliban Warn Against Army Offensive "Dawn" (11/20)

"The Pakistani Taliban once again warned against the government's offensive against them and reiterated that they would fight the Pakistan army until their demands were accepted. Speaking exclusively to 'DawnNews,' the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) spokesman Azam Tariq said the Pakistani Taliban would continue their action against the present government until it stops following America's dictation."

News Story: 20 Taliban Killed In Bajaur, SWA "Daily Times" (11/20)

"Security forces killed 13 Taliban, including two foreigners and injured two others in Bajaur Agency on Thursday, while troops killed seven more Taliban in the military offensive in South Waziristan. Fighter jets bombed Taliban hideouts in Gugray, Gatki, Supray and Swai in Mamond tehsil, and destroying five hideouts."

News Story: 16 of A Family Die In Aerial Bombing "The News" (11/20)

"Sixteen members of a family were killed in shelling by jetfighters in Tor Smat area Orakzai Agency, locals claimed on Thursday. However, there was no comment from the army officials."

News Story: NATO Must Not Walk Away From Afghanistan, Says Chief "The News" (11/20)

"NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said on Thursday the alliance must not turn its back on Afghanistan as this would raise the threat from al-Qaeda and lead to insecurity throughout central Asia. I have absolutely no doubt that if we were to walk away and turn our backs on Afghanistan al-Qaeda would be right back, Rasmussen told a conference in Budapest. 'And if we were to walk away, just imagine the pressure on nuclear-armed Pakistan and the way instability would spread like wildfire through central Asia.'"

News Story: So Much For CIA Director's Travelling Incognito "The News" (11/20)

"A vehicle of a sensitive security agency escorting U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director Leon Panetta, currently on a 'secret' visit to Pakistan, overturned near KRL Chowk at Islamabad Expressway while the motorcade was going to Diplomatic Enclave from Islamabad Airport, intelligence agency sources told 'The News.'"

News Story: Pakistan Most Unsafe Place in The World, Thanks To U.S. "The News" (11/20)

"Pakistanis are facing more terrorism in 2009 as compared with Iraq and Afghanistan due to increased level of U.S. troop deployment in the region and there could be no peace in Pakistan until the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. That was the conclusion of a discussion among top security experts on Thursday night in 'Geo

News' show 'Capital Talk.'" (

News Story: Aafia Siddiqui Promises NY Trial Boycott "Dawn" (11/20)

"A Pakistan native who was trained as a scientist in the U.S. and suspected of being an al-Qaida operative has promised to boycott her January trial in New York. Aafia Siddiqui interrupted lawyers to announce in federal court in Manhattan on Thursday that she did not plan to participate in her trial."

Editorial: Suicide Blast Outside Peshawar Judicial Complex, an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (11/20)

"The Taliban have denied any involvement in the suicide bombing outside the Peshawar Judicial Complex. Meanwhile, the government officials have also rejected allegations that the Blackwater is behind this deadly blast. If both these claims are true, then question arises who is responsible for these dastardly incidents? The terrified people are also questioning that why our government is giving clarifications on behalf of the infamous Blackwater?"

Editorial: General Kayani's Courageous Stance On National Security, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (11/20)

"Army chief General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani has said that there is a permanent danger from a neighboring country which has expansionist designs.... General Kayani's statement represents the feeling of every Pakistani. The nation stands by its army and if needed it will stand by it like 1965. The government has to respond to what India has been doing in Waziristan and Balochistan; it should also have courage like General Kayani."

Editorial: Army Chief's Bold Statement, in the Lahore-based populist center-right Urdu daily "Khabrain" (cir. 50,000) (11/20)

"Since India is presently being used by the international powers it can commit any kind of excess [against Pakistan]. It is due to this reason that the Army Chief had to say that we face a 'threat from the neighbor, and can do anything to protect national security.' Due to the ongoing crises in the country, certain foreign powers were under the impression that Pakistan would fall into the trap of their conspiracies. But the Army Chief's statement is very clear,

and he has given an unequivocal message to anti-Pakistan powers that Pakistan "can go to any limit" for national security."

POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: NAB Compiles New List After Erasure Of Old Record "Dawn" (11/20)

"On the instructions of the government, the National Accountability Bureau has prepared a fresh list of 233 cases of financial irregularities against 248 people that were withdrawn or disposed of under the National Reconciliation Ordinance, 2007. Sources told Dawn on Thursday that original lists submitted by the provincial governments and NAB to the federal government involved an amount of Rs708 billion allegedly siphoned off through kickbacks, corruption and misuse of authority."

News Story: Rulers Have Bowled Before U.S. "The Nation" (11/20)

"Editor 'The Nation' Dr. Shireen Mazari has said that the color of the state is getting "red and white" instead of "green and white" as present rulers have bowed before America accepting its growing hegemony at the cost of rule of law, sovereignty and prestige of the country. She expressed these views while presiding over a seminar on 'Political and Cultural Hegemony of Big Powers - Role of Media' at Hameed Nizami Press Institute of Pakistan on Thursday."

Editorial: Rising Corruption, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (11/20)

"It seems as if Pakistan has a knack for being in the news for all

the wrong reasons. According to Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index 2009, Pakistan has climbed five places to number 42 from 47.... Pakistan tops the list of countries known for bad governance, rampant corruption and a poor law and order situation. The common man is forced to pay bribes for police protection, education and justice. Corruption is not only rampant in all our institutions but also in our day-to-day lives.... Effective action against corruption is the responsibility of governments. Civil society and the private sector also have to play an active role by holding the government accountable wherever it goes wrong."

Editorial: Most Ridiculous Idea Of Changing Country's Name, an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (11/20)

"Though a political party which was reported to be in league with two other parties has denied making the sinister move but circumstantial evidence suggests that the idea of changing the name of the country from 'Islamic' to 'Peoples' Republic of Pakistan was mooted during ongoing deliberations of the Constitutional Reforms Committee. According to reports, the idea was floated by the ANP and two other parties - PPP and MQM - welcomed the suggestion by their coalition partner.... It is regrettable that a handful of people are still working on their filthy agenda of turning this overwhelmingly Muslim State into a secular one. But we will warn them that this cannot happen, as people of Pakistan are ready to defend the core interests of the country at any cost.... We are also sure that other political parties and leaders of the public opinion would renounce this thinking."

ECON/BUSINESS

News Story: U.S. Turns Focus On Energy In Pak Aid Review "The Nation" (11/20)

"The United States expects to complete a review on how to spend \$7.5 billion in proposed aid for Pakistan by the end of this month, with an early focus on the country's decrepit energy sector, senior U.S. officials said on Wednesday.... U.S. officials involved in the review declined to say how \$1.5 billion a year in new funds would be allocated but made clear that an infrastructure project, particularly electricity was an important part of the review."

News Story: U.S. Business Visas To Be Issued From Lahore Soon "Dawn" (11/20)

"U.S. Consul General Ms Carmela Conroy has said that modalities are being finalized to start issuance of business visas from Lahore as early as possible. Speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Thursday, she said that the United States was taking all possible measures to ensure economic stability in Pakistan. The role of business community was of utmost importance for the purpose."

Editorial: Iran's Grievance Regarding Gas Pipeline Project And Cheap Electricity, an editorial in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (11/20)

"According to some reports, the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline project is facing inordinate delay due to the pressure from Washington. In fact, the U.S. wants to keep Pakistan's economy dependent on foreign loans and exploit this weakness of ours to advance its agenda in the region. The government should reject any U.S. pressure, and finalize the pipeline project which would, surely, play a pivotal role in boosting our national economy."

Editorial: Pakistan's Sorry Attitude To Iranian Offers, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (11/20)

"Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mashallah Shakiri has said that some unseen force wants to sabotage relations between Pakistan and Iran. Speaking with Nawa-i-Waqt, he said that Iran has started implementing the gas pipeline agreement, but Pakistan hasn't made progress in this respect. He said that Iran is willing to immediately supply 1000 MW electricity, but Pakistan is not willing to buy it, despite facing acute power crisis.... Iran wishes to provide us cheap electricity while the people's representatives are

insisting on having most expensive rental power plants. We need to improve our relations with not only Iran but we need to have an Islamic bloc with the inclusion of Afghanistan and Turkey."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)
Patterson